

**Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
4:00 PM
RISCA Offices
Providence RI**

Council Members Present: Bill Brackett, Chairman; Carrie Zaslow, Vice Chairman; Beverly Blais; Nancy Chapman; Dana Neugent; Carolyn Peck; Regina Partridge; Jean Rondeau and David Wax.

Council Members Unable to Attend: Mary K. Talbot, Secretary; Ann Clanton and Andrea Valentini.

Staff Members Present: Randall Rosenbaum, Executive Director; Steven Feinberg, Executive Director Film & Television; Carol Conley, Asst. to Executive Director Film & Television; Elizabeth Keithline, Project Grants for Organizations/Public Art and Donna Fiske, Fiscal & Office Manager

Chairman Bill Brackett called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Review and Approval of the Public Art Commission:

University of Rhode Island; College of Pharmacy.

Elizabeth Keithline, Public Art Program Director, presented the Council with the recommendation of the URI College of Pharmacy public art selection panel. It was to commission the artist team of Elizabeth Billings, Andrea Wasserman, H. Keith Wagner and Jeff Hodgson of Vermont for an extensive Medicinal & Wellness Garden in front of the new College of Pharmacy building. The Council reviewed the proposal and was enthusiastic in its support.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the URI College of Pharmacy public art selection panel, and commission the artist team of Elizabeth Billings, Andrea Wasserman, H. Keith Wagner and Jeff Hodgson of Vermont for a Medicinal & Wellness Garden in front of the new College of Pharmacy building. (Motion: David Wax; seconded by Jean Rondeau, approved unanimously)

Rhode Island College; RIC's Art Building:

Ms. Keithline presented a recommendation prepared by herself in consultation with Council member Regina Partridge and her partners at Rhode Island College. Instead of commissioning one single large work with the \$170,000 available for public art at the Rhode Island College new Art Building, Ms. Keithline recommended working with the RIC public art committee on a series of temporary public art installations. Under this plan there would be a series of different public art exhibits over a period of time, projected to cost about \$30,000 a year for the next five years. RISCA would work closely with RIC on this multi year project, coordinating with one panel over the entire period.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation to commission a series of temporary public art installations at Rhode Island College using the funds available for the RIC Art Building project.

(Motion: Carrie Zaslow; seconded by Regina Partridge, approved unanimously)

FY12 Budget:

Chairman Bill Brackett lead an extensive discussion by the Council on the impact of Governor Chafee's proposal to extend the state sales tax to include admission to cultural events and arts education activities. Chairman Brackett and others have heard about concerns about how this proposal would cause problems with an arts community that has inordinately suffered during the recent economic crisis. Chairman Brackett presented a draft of a letter to the General Assembly expressing the Council's opposition to the proposal. The draft was discussed by the Council, and several minor changes were made.

The Council unanimously agreed to send the amended letter to Governor Chafee's office, the House and Senate leadership, to Members of the General Assembly and to editorial page editors.

A motion was made to express the Council's opposition to the Governor's proposal to extend the state sales tax to include admission to cultural events and arts education activities. *(Motion: Jean Rondeau; seconded by Beverly Blais, approved unanimously)*

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting *(Motion: David Wax; seconded by Nancy Chapman, approved unanimously)*